The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A laser irradiation method comprising:

changing a first laser beam emitted from a solid-state laser oscillator which oscillates a laser beam having a spectral width which is 0.1 nm or more into a second laser beam whose intensity distribution is homogenized by passing through a beam homogenizer;

changing the second laser beam into a third laser beam by using a slit to block an end portion of the second laser beam in a major-axis direction of the laser beam;

making the ~~second~~ third laser beam pass through a condensing lens after passing through the beam homogenizer;

making the ~~second~~ third laser beam enter an irradiation surface; and

moving the ~~second~~ third laser beam relative to the irradiation surface ~~so as to form a crystal grain grown continuously in a moving direction~~.

2. (Currently Amended) A laser irradiation method comprising:

changing a first ~~mode-locked pulsed~~ laser beam emitted from a solid-state laser oscillator which oscillates a laser beam having a spectral width which is 0.1 nm or more into a second laser beam whose intensity distribution is homogenized by passing through a beam homogenizer;

making the second laser beam pass through a condensing lens after passing through the beam homogenizer;

making the second laser beam enter an irradiation surface; [[and]]

moving the second laser beam relative to the irradiation surface so that the second laser beam is irradiated to a first irradiation region; and

moving the second laser beam relative to the irradiation surface so that the second laser beam is irradiated to a second irradiation region,

wherein the first irradiation region and the second irradiation region overlap with each other in an overlapping portion, and

wherein the overlapping portion is a microcrystal region.

3. (Currently Amended) A laser irradiation method comprising:

changing a first laser beam emitted from a solid-state laser oscillator which oscillates a laser beam having a spectral width which is 0.1 nm or more into a second laser beam whose intensity distribution is homogenized by passing through a beam homogenizer;

changing the second laser beam into a third laser beam by using a slit to block an end portion of the second laser beam in a major-axis direction of the laser beam;

making the third laser beam pass through a condensing lens and a projecting lens so that an image of the third laser beam formed by the slit is projected onto an irradiation surface; and

moving the irradiation surface relative to the third laser beam ~~so as to form a crystal grain grown continuously in a moving direction~~,

wherein the projecting lens is disposed at a position where the slit and the irradiation surface are in a conjugate relation.

4. (Original) The laser irradiation method according to any one of Claims 1 to 3,

wherein the condensing lens is a convex cylindrical lens or a convex spherical lens.

5. (Previously Presented) The laser irradiation method according to any one of Claims 1 to 3,

wherein the solid-state laser oscillator is a solid-state laser oscillator which includes a crystal of sapphire, YAG, ceramic YAG, ceramic Y_2O_3, KGW, KYW, Mg_2SiO_4, YLF, YVO_4, or $GdVO_4$ doped with at least one of Nd, Yb, Cr, Ti, Ho, and Er.

6. (Previously Presented) The laser irradiation method according to any one of Claims 1 to 3,

wherein the laser beam is converted by a non-linear optical element.

7. (Previously Presented) The laser irradiation method according to any one of Claims 1 to 3,

wherein the beam homogenizer uses any one of a cylindrical lens array, a light pipe, and a fly-eye lens.

8. (Previously Presented) A digital video camera, a digital camera, a navigation system, a sound reproduction device, a display, a mobile terminal, a thin film integrated circuit device, or a CPU manufactured by using the laser irradiation method according to any one of Claims 1 to 3.

9. (Currently Amended) A laser irradiation apparatus comprising:

a solid-state laser oscillator for oscillating a laser beam having a spectral width which is 0.1 nm or more;

a beam homogenizer for homogenizing intensity distribution of the laser beam emitted from the solid-state laser oscillator;

a slit for blocking an end portion of the laser beam in a major-axis direction of the laser beam whose intensity distribution has been homogenized by the beam homogenizer;

a condensing lens for condensing the laser beam which has passed through the beam homogenizer; and

means for moving an irradiation surface relative to the laser beam ~~so as to form a crystal grain grown continuously in a moving direction~~.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A laser irradiation apparatus comprising:

a solid-state laser oscillator for oscillating a laser beam having a spectral width which is 0.1 nm or more;

a beam homogenizer for homogenizing intensity distribution of the laser beam emitted from the solid-state laser oscillator;

a slit for blocking an end portion of the laser beam in a major-axis direction of the laser beam whose intensity distribution has been homogenized by the beam homogenizer;

a condensing lens for condensing the laser beam;

a projecting lens for projecting an image of the laser beam formed by the slit onto an irradiation surface; and

means for moving the irradiation surface relative to the laser beam ~~so as to form a crystal grain grown continuously in a moving direction~~, and

wherein the projecting lens is disposed at a position where the slit and the irradiation surface are in a conjugate relation.

12. (Currently Amended) The laser irradiation apparatus according to Claim [[10 or]] 11,

wherein the condensing lens is a convex cylindrical lens or a convex spherical lens.

13. (Currently Amended) The laser irradiation apparatus according to ~~any one of Claims~~ Claim 9 [[to]] or 11,

wherein the solid-state laser oscillator is a solid-state laser oscillator which includes a crystal of sapphire, YAG, ceramic YAG, ceramic Y_2O_3, KGW, KYW, Mg_2SiO_4, YLF, YVO_4, or $GdVO_4$ doped with at least one of Nd, Yb, Cr, Ti, Ho, and Er.

14. (Currently Amended) The laser irradiation apparatus according to ~~any one of Claims~~ Claim 9 [[to]] or 11,

wherein the laser beam is a harmonic converted by a non-linear optical element.

15. (Currently Amended) The laser irradiation apparatus according to ~~any one of Claims~~ Claim 9 [[to]] or 11,

wherein the beam homogenizer is any one of a cylindrical lens array, a light pipe, and a fly-eye lens.

16. (Currently Amended) A digital video camera, a digital camera, a navigation system, a sound reproduction device, a display, a mobile terminal, a thin film integrated circuit device, or a CPU manufactured by using the laser irradiation apparatus according to ~~any one of Claims~~ Claim 9 [[to]] or 11.

17. (Previously Presented) The laser irradiation method according to claim 1,

wherein a fundamental wavelength is converted into harmonic in the solid-state laser oscillator.

18. (Previously Presented) The laser irradiation method according to claim 2,

wherein a fundamental wavelength is converted into harmonic in the solid-state laser oscillator.

19. (Previously Presented) The laser irradiation method according to claim 3,

wherein a fundamental wavelength is converted into harmonic in the solid-state laser oscillator.

20. (Previously Presented) The laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 9,

wherein a fundamental wavelength is converted into harmonic in the solid-state laser oscillator.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously Presented) The laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 11,

wherein a fundamental wavelength is converted into harmonic in the solid-state laser oscillator.